GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2530
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003
ARTIFICIAL LIMBS
SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handicapped ex-servicemen participating in atheletics are not able to compete with their foreign counterpart due to heavy weight limbs provided by the artificial limbs centre;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to produce ultra modern limbs of low weight;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ex-servicemen are not happy with the technology of limbs provided to them as compared to the new technology of limbs available in the market; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2530 18.12.2003

Handicapped ex-servicemen have been participating in sports activities and their performance has been creditable. The Artificial Limbs Center in Pune is a reputed organization that provides artificial limbs to ex-servicemen and others.The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) source their requirements through this center.The quality of this center has been appreciated even abroad and requests from several foreign nations are received for limb fitments for their soldiers as also civilians. In addition, continuous research and development efforts are undertaken through various projects to upgrade the quality of fitments.

2. Artificial limbs given to ex-servicemen are of international quality. These have helped them perform exceptionally well in different competitions. Further, ultra modern limbs available with the Artificial Limbs Center, Pune are provided for the ex-servicemen. If these are not available, the items are procured from the market on need basis. There is, however, marginal difference in weight between different below knee limbs available in market and those sourced from the Artificial Limbs Center, Pune.